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particular Friend, to excuse us for the time to come, from these long Journies, and especially me, *who am not of an Age fit for it*: I tryed to obtain at least that they would be contented to take only one of us; the Letters of our Fathers were daily brought us during the Journey, and I had the convenience of writing to them, by means of the Carriers which continually went to and came from the Royal City: I write all this in hast, that I may continue to give you an Account of our Affairs.

*An Explanation, necessary to justify the Geography
supposed in these Letters.*

IT may seem wonderful, that the Author of these Letters makes mention in his former, of a kind of Warr between the *Oriental Tartars* and the *Moscovites*, notwithstanding the extream distance, these People appear to be from one another in our Geographical Charts; but those who know how much the *Moscovites* have extended the Bounds of the *Empire* along the *Tartarian Sea*, will judge the thing less difficult, besides those who have seen these Countrys, have made Discoveries much differing from those which our *Geographers* have informed us of hitherto. Very lately *Monseieur D'Arcy*, who commands one of the Kings Ships, in the Fleet of *Monseieur Le Marechal d'Estrees*, informed us, that having served in *Poland*, and having been made Governor of a Place towards *Moscovy*, the *Moscovite* Ambassadors in their returne having passed by him, and being by him, treated in such a manner as put them into a very good Humor; one of them shewed him a Chart of the Countrys between *Moscovy* and *China*: and told him, that from 3 Cities which he shewed him, whose Names were *Loppla*, *Abasinko*, *Nerginsko*, all 3 under the Government of the great Dukes, tho' Situated in the great *Tartary*, there was a Way to *Pekin*,
which

which was not more than 25 or 30 dayes Journey. This Map it seems must be kept very Secret in *Muscovy* : for the next Day the *Muscovite* was in despair, for having given it, saying that if it should be known he should come to great Dammage. The Officer being come back since into *France*, has given a Copy to the King, and another to *Monseur Le Marquis de Seignelay*. To confirme this it may be added, what a *French* Man has writ from *Muscovy* within this two Monthes, that they are actually Raifing Troops, to go to War with the *Chinese*.

Some Observations, and Conjectures Concerning the Chinese Characters. Made by R. H. R. S. S.

Made by R. H. R. S. S.

Whether there ever were any Language Natural, I dispute not : But that there have been, are and may be artificial Languages 'tis not difficult to prove. The *Chinese* Court Language is said to be of this kind, invented and Spoken by the *Literati* and *Mandarins* throughout the whole Empire of *China*, differing from all the other Languages spoken in it, and I conjecture it to be nothing els but the names of the Characters by which they write and express their meaning, Arbitrarily Imposed by them, as we in *Europe* set names to Arithmetical Figures, not as we pronounce words written with a Literal Character. This I Judge by comparing the Characters with the Names, Monosyllables or Words they Pronounce and read them with. Nor do they ascend above a Monosyllabical Name tho' the Character be composed of many single Characters, each of which hath its proper Sense and Monosyllabical Name, And though the meaning of each Character, be an ingredient in the Notion of that compounded Character.

I might give an Instance also in the Artificial Language,